

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/DE2003/004290



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 995-81 PCT-1	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/DE2003/004290	International filing date (day/month/year) 15 December 2003 (15.12.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 16 December 2002 (16.12.2002)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B41F 30/04			
Applicant CONTITECH ELASTOMER-BESCHICHTUNGEN GMBH			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>6</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:
<input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
<input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13 July 2004 (13.07.2004)	Date of completion of this report 10 March 2005 (10.03.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/DE2003/004290

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

The international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages 1-11, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages 1-16, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages 1/2-2/2, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Supplemental Box
(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: III.1

**Non-establishment of opinion with regard to
novelty, inventive step and industrial
applicability**

Clarity:

1. The application fails to satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 6 because two of the independent claims, claims 5 and 7, lack clarity.
2. The features in device claims 5 and 7 relate to a method for the production of the device and not to the definition of the device in terms of its technical features. Thus, contrary to PCT Article 6, the intended restrictions are not clear from said claims.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-4, 6, 8-16	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-4, 6, 8-16	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-4, 6, 8-16	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. Independent claims 1, 8 and 9:

1.1 Prior art:

Document D1 (US-A-4 635 550) and document D2 (DE-C-4 307 320), each of which when considered independently of the other represents the closest prior art, disclose a printing blanket assembly, in each case, with all the features according to the preamble of independent claim 1 except that according to document D1 a projecting end of a printing blanket is provided with a separate supporting element whereas according to document D2 a projecting end of a printing blanket comprises an integrally moulded support element.

1.2 Problem:

The problem of interest is that of developing a printing blanket assembly of the known type in such a way that it is possible to reduce the effective gap in the blanket cylinder, using easily produced means.

/...

1.3 Solution:

The specific combination of all the features in independent device claim 1, in particular the two projecting printing blanket ends, each of which has one support element as per the characterising part of claim 1, is neither described in the prior art nor rendered obvious thereby and, in consequence, involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Thus, the two alternative production methods for the production of a printing blanket assembly, as per independent method claims 8 and 9 respectively, each of which claims has all the features according to independent claim 1, satisfy the requirements of novelty and inventive step (PCT Article 33).

2. Dependent claims 2 to 4, 6 and 10 to 16:

Dependent device claims 2 to 4 and 6 define advantageous embodiments of a printing blanket assembly with all the features of independent claim 1, whilst dependent method claims 10 to 16 define advantageous embodiments of the method for the production of printing blankets, said method having all the features of independent claim 9.